

**CLAIMS:**

- 5 1. A steering wheel arrangement, the steering wheel arrangement incorporating a fixed element (20), the fixed element carrying a first annular bearing (33), the annular bearing supporting a steering wheel (22) for rotation relative to the fixed element, the fixed element also carrying a second bearing (38), the second bearing rotatably supporting a component to be  
10 connected to part of the steering column of a vehicle, characterised in that the bearings are both retained, to the fixed element, by means of a first resilient retaining element (40), the first bearing being retained to the steering wheel by a second resilient retaining element (41).
- 15 2. An arrangement according to Claim 1 wherein the fixed element (20) has a housing part (24) with an upper surface (25), the upper surface (25) having at least two levels (26,27), the outer periphery of the upper surface defining a wall (28), the first bearing (33) being mounted to that wall, the upper surface defining an opening (29) having a side wall (30), the second bearing  
20 (38) being mounted to that side wall; wherein the first retaining element (40) comprises a plate which lies over the upper surface, the plate having a part (46) which is resiliently biased into contact with part of the first bearing and with part of the second bearing.
- 25 3. An arrangement according to Claim 2 wherein the plate has two arcuate sections (45,46) located to either side of an aperture (43), one arcuate section (45<sup>1</sup>) being provided with retaining studs (48) to secure the plate to the fixed element, the other arcuate section (46) being resiliently connected to the

first arcuate section and engaging both the first bearing (33) and the second bearing (38).

4. An arrangement according to Claim 3 wherein the first arcuate  
5 section (45<sup>1</sup>) engages both the first bearing (33) and the second bearing (38).

5. An arrangement according to Claim 3 or 4 wherein the arcuate  
sections (45<sup>1</sup>,46) are interconnected by two relatively narrow interconnecting  
bridges (44,45).

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6. An arrangement according to any preceding Claim wherein the second  
retaining element (41) is of annular form, the element carrying a plurality of  
radially inwardly directed resilient lugs (53-56) which engage the first  
bearing (33) on which the steering wheel is mounted, the second retaining  
15 element being secured to part of the steering wheel (2).

7. An arrangement according to Claim 6 wherein the second retaining (41)  
element is provided with a plurality of fixing studs (59-52), the fixing studs  
passing through corresponding apertures formed in part of the steering  
20 wheel (2).